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(54) Distributed internet protocol-based real-time multimedia streaming architecture

(57) Multiple media push engines (MPE,12) communicate with the multimedia client (MC,16) through a multicasting network (14) that may incorporate multiple delivery paths. The streaming data representing media selections for delivery are distributed across multiple media push engines using a non-hierarchial coding technique in which the data are represented as a set of substream components, capable of being reconstituted from fewer than all of the components of the original data stream. The higher the number of components used in reconstitution, the higher the quality of service is provided by the reconstituted stream. Admission control to the group multicast session is administered in a distributed fashion, where an admission control unit (AC,18) opens the multicast stream, with all subsequent admission control decisions being made by the media push engines (MPE,12) themselves. Substream component data are sent using Real-Time transport protocol while session management and the distributed admission control process are administered under the Real-Time Control Protocol.

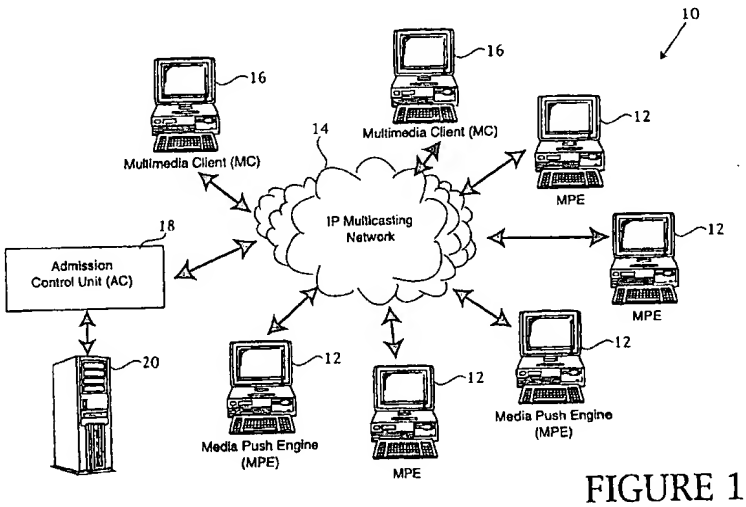

FIGURE 1

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 98 11 8038

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims

Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
MUNICH	29 July 2003	Günther, S

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